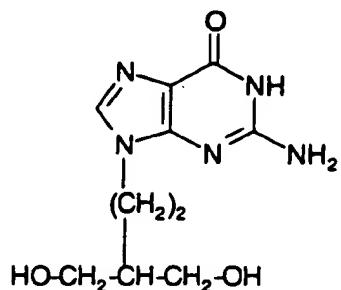


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USE OF (R)-PENCICLOVIR TRIPHOSPHATE FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF A MEDICAMENT FOR
THE TREATMENT OF VIRAL DISEASES

*This application is a 371 of PCT/EP96/01706, filed 04/26/1996, which claims
This invention relates to treatment of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
and hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection.*

When used herein, 'treatment' includes prophylaxis as appropriate.
EP-A-141927 (Beecham Group p.l.c.) discloses penciclovir (PCV), the
compound of formula (A):



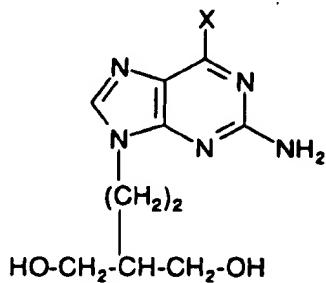
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(A)

of UK 9508237
foreign priority
and UK 9604909.3
filed 03/08/1996

and salts, phosphate esters and acyl derivatives thereof, as antiviral agents. The sodium salt hydrate of penciclovir is disclosed in EP-A-216459 (Beecham Group p.l.c.). Penciclovir and its antiviral activity is also disclosed in Abstract P.V11-5
15 p.193 of 'Abstracts of 14th Int. Congress of Microbiology', Manchester, England 7-13 September 1986 (Boyd et. al.).

Orally active bioprecursors of the compound of formula (A) are of formula
(B):



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(B)